NORTH Bi NORTHWEST

Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services

May, June, July 2005 **$3.00** *Volume 18, Issue #2*

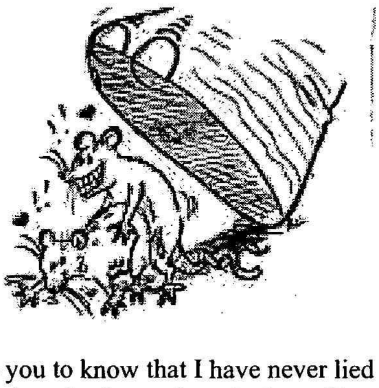
Love Me Like That

By Carole E Trainor

Don't stand and wonder about the motivation of me. (Why try to make this puzzle fit?) Sigmund Freud has tried. (has he not?) And now look at all the trouble this one solitary man has wrought upon the earth! Ten billion of his disciples keep themselves up at nights. (Did you know this?) They are busy breaking the world into tiny pieces so they might learn how to better medicate you. (Yes, you!) The artists are hiding beneath the floor boards in these times. They are not nearly as precious as the dead and dusty art that is hiding out in the dead men's attics. If the truth be told out loud, they are all a bunch of bores. Their occupation is with the banal. Don't love me like that. For Christ's sake.

Don't hide your passions or your swear words under your breath. Don't keep your discoloured pajamas hidden in the bottom drawer on this day, or the fact that you don't give a damn about your cholesterol, hidden from plain view. Don't feign perfection for me, my love. I won't believe it anyway, and what's worse is, (your mother should have told you) your face will turn to stone.

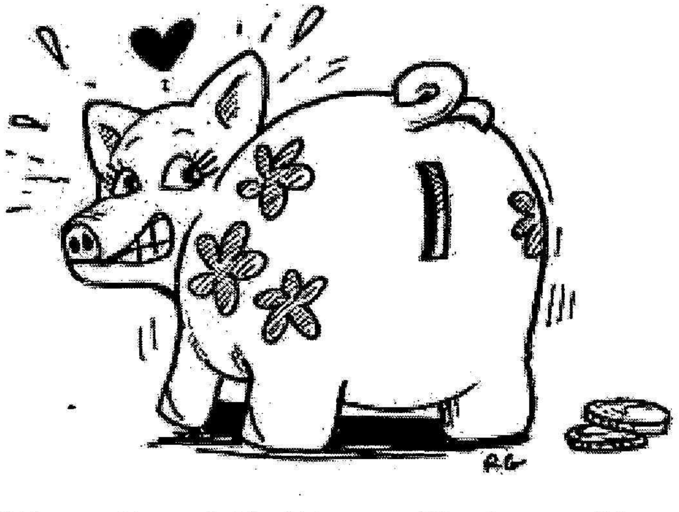
The world is not an elephant's foot. And even if it were, there is great honour in being a worm or a mouse or an ant caught in the act of doing the obscene. (Even if they die under the weight of it) You would know this all ready if you had taken the time to think - think, my love -instead of reading all those god awful texts that teach you how not to.



Would it help you to know that I have never lied to you? You smell sweeter than the dung of an elephant. You are sharper than the sharpest nail that has been hammered into the shingles of this roof. (How can you not know this?)

I will only say it to you once, my love: You do not equal the weight of your penny jar. (does this bear repeating?) I am sorry to have to tell you that Freud was obsessive and that the psychoanalysts continue to misguide and mislead. This is the reason that they themselves, are now, misguided and misled. God love their little hearts. I think now that they probably mean well.

Stuffed shirts/skirts and shiny cars do not equal your mental health, or theirs, my love. Damn them. Damn the good will and straight intentions of every analyst. They are difficult to hate. But look! Please don't turn away: The artists are being held up for auction at garage sales. There is nobody bidding. Many of them will die with nothing but cheap noodles in their hollowed guts. Fancy theories, instigated by Sigmund Freud himself, will try to explain away their poverty. Their minds will be assessed; their sanity doubted for what their bodies could not endure. Don't love me like that! Don't take the Beauty from my voice thinking my goods for free. Don't steal the beauty from my song and ask me to prove my worth by the weight of my penny jar. Don't love me like that!



Did you not hear what I said to you a zillion times over? I care nothing that you should retire in 28 months and sixteen days. These kinds of details are enough to bore it blind! (The eye of a hurricane, I mean) Only those without knowledge of the moons eternal sustenance should worry about tomorrow as you do. Are you a man or are you not? Are you a woman or

...Continued on page 4

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North Bi Northwest is the quarterly newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network. It is produced by women and is feminist in content. We feature news and events pertinent to the bisexual community, as well as creative writing and artwork.

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We welcome submissions from women and men that concern feminism, politics, sexuality, or anything of interest to bisexual women. Help define our culture! Share your histories, anger, pleasure, energy. Send us your essays, poetry, photographs, drawings, book reviews, short stories, interviews, media reports, rants, cartoons, erotica, journals, theory, conversations and letters. You're important to us and what you have to say is important to everyone.

We accept submissions on disk with hard copy (PC), typed, legibly handwritten copy or e-mail (sbwn@hotmail.com). If you send us something and we publish it, you get a free issue. Let us know what pseudonym you use, if you do not want to publish under your everyday name.

Views expressed in *North Bi Northwest* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SBWN. Inclusion in this publication does not indicate the author's sexual orientation.

Deadline for submissions to the new issue: July 22, 2005.

SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of self-identified women from diverse backgrounds working to create a feminist bisexual support network. We promote, in both the heterosexual world, and in the lesbian/gay community, the understanding and acceptance of bisexuality as one of many valid sexual identities.

We regard ourselves as part of the community united against heterosexism and homophobia. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political, or economic coercion. The discriminations we face based on our gender and our sexuality are not the only forms of oppression. We recognize that oppression is non-hierarchical and that none of us is free until all of us are free. We have invested ourselves in the feminist struggle to transform our culture into one free of all forms of bigotry, hatred, and exploitation.

We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexual orientation and identity. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. We are exclusively a women's group in order to create a safe space for women's expression and leadership. We come together to affirm ourselves and our choices.

North Bi Northwest

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SBWN
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98113-0645

SBWN can always use volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Give us a call or talk to a facilitator at a meeting.

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Gay Community Social Services
P O Box 2228
Seattle WA 98122-0228

From the Editor...

Hi all. SBWN is gearing up for our participation in Pride this year. We expect to be marching with BiNet again this year and to have a presence in the Gay Community Social Services booth.

We had a successful Safer Sex workshop with informative handouts and a wide assortment of gloves, condoms and lubes to try out. We had an interesting meeting on Hair as well as great meetings on Body Image and Poly relationships. See the Comments after meetings column for participant's experiences in their own words.

We had a fabulous party where we watched Catwoman and ate pizza. Lots of great eye candy in the movie and afterward some of us stayed to watch one episode each of the L Word and Fat Actress. The event was the last chance we had to party with Diana and Dorothy who have driven off on their new adventure of moving to Florida. Diana has taken a job in Orlando to be closer to her relatives. We will miss Dorothy's delicious friendly flirting and we will very much miss Diana's volunteer work with SBWN.

Dorothy and Diana enjoying Pride 2000.

Diana worked extensively on our web site, making it user friendly, good to look at and well equipped with resource links. She created and printed many documents for us such as the brochures we give out to new members at meetings and she regularly updated the phone list and provided copies. Diana and Dorothy held many well attended parties at their house over the years. Diana was constantly planning events like movie nights, ice skating and wine tasting evenings, to keep us connected to each other outside of SBWN meetings. They were both a welcome presence in my life since I started attending SBWN meetings back in '96.

In this issue we have a report on a Valentine's Day rally for equal rights and same sex marriage in Olympia, WA, written by Lori. We have an updated list of the SBWN volunteers and some great Comments after meetings. I finally finished the third installment of an article on my personal activism and have included that in this issue. And we have another lovely piece from Carole Trainor gracing our front page accompanied by specially drawn illustrations from Roberta Gregory.

I have been casting about trying to decide what to write about the state of our union and our state. At home, my mailbox is being bombarded with pleas for money and support for a wide variety of liberal causes, the ACLC, NARAL, The Feminist Majority, the Democratic Party, NOW, the NGLBT Task Force. It's an endless stream of dire predictions, scary warnings and action alerts. My email is also a steam of 'look what they've done now', 'sign this petition', 'call your congress people right this minute', and 'send money'. Our governor's election is still under attack by the losing side who seem determined to drag the legal battle out ad infinitum. Sometimes I wonder how I can still get out of bed each morning.

I started to make a list: the nuclear option removing minority influence over judicial nominees; the intervention of the US congress and so many others into the private life of Terri Shiavo: the public threats and slurs against judges who don't rule on the side of conservative elected officials; the offering of John Bolton as ambassador to the United Nations; the huge and climbing deficit; the continuing conflict in Iraq; the scare campaign to convince the public that private/personal accounts are necessary to cure the ills of Social Security, especially when the president himself admits this option will do nothing to 'fix' the system. I am overwhelmed, trying to step back, breathe for a while and then figure out what to tackle next.

I hope to see many of you at Pride this year, come out and let's show our pride in who we are and not be intimidated back into our closets.

Cyprienne

***Correction**: The front page heading for the last issue (February, March, April 2005) was labeled Volume 18, Issue #5. It should have been Volume 18, Issue #1.*

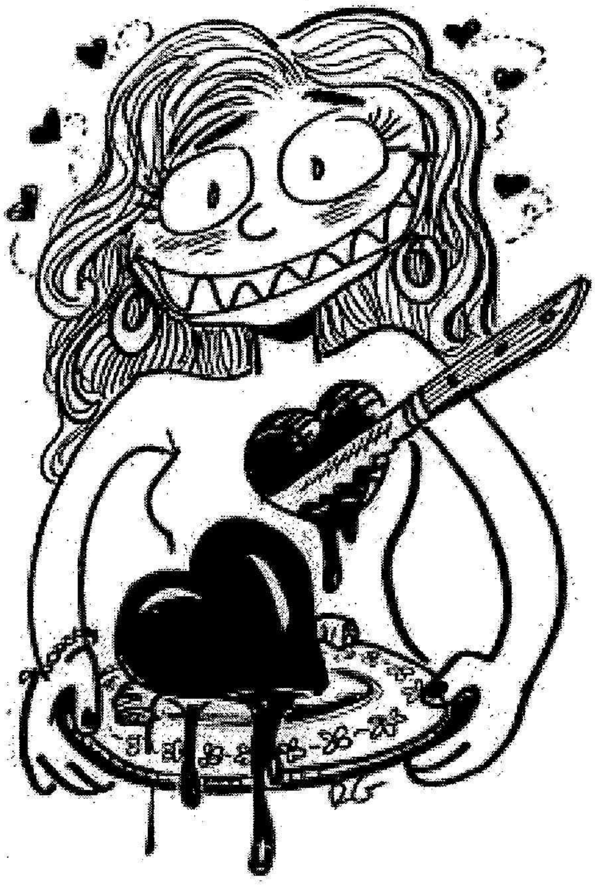
Special Notice To Contributors

SBWN is entering into an agreement with EBSCO to have North-Bi-Northwest offered by subscription electronically. If you are a contributor of content, please be aware that future issues of North-Bi-Northwest will be available online.

are you not? Have you not a good paying job? (God will bless you for having the right job in these times, you know. You will be redeemed in Gods boring heaven for all of eternity, and you will go on and on and on. Not one artist will be there to lull you into the heart of life itself. You will only wish your pennies could buy your way out of this one.

That these kinds of questions should precede the straight as an arrow question I put to you in this very moment is absolutely preposterous: Will you or will you not have another root beer with me.

With all of my heart I am asking you to hurry up and claim the heart you've won, my love. It's free! It's free of charge! You've all ready been informed of this. Don't sit awhile and wonder. You know I was nothing before you wooed me and won me. Now woo me and win me for free.



Oh my beloved you, sit me down again and drink me into the bluest eyes of you. Sit me down and sing me an upside down queerest of all love songs. Kiss the lips of me with those lips that are pink and full - glorious as the vulva of another woman! Kiss me with the pink rose of those glorious obscene lips. Weaken me with the obscenity of you. Don't bore me with the stories of women who go to church and love men but who have no love for other women; women who are sanitized and never swear. Who could claim to love men who never swear.

Tell me now. Tell me what it is I all ready know, my love: that you are queer. Queer as the first bump on the bum of a crocodile. Queer as the mother of God who might still be working at the Walmart if Joseph hadn't come along. Tell me, again, what it is I all ready know: that you are there hiding away - soft, soft, soft as the skin of a tulip inside the foreskin of you

Tell me you love shredded wheat without sugar, my love, and I shall forgive you your awful choice. Turn yourself into a Catholic, for Christ's sake, and I shall forgive you even this! Do as you please, my love! Be as you please! Make mudpies on my door step and I shall eat them for supper!

Make the rain fall so hard upon the earth on this day, that all the trees bend over with the weight of your request, and I shall beg god on my hands and knees to forgive you. Stand on your tip toes and rip the most glorious leaves from the tops of gods most glorious of trees and I shall make a case for you - on this highest most holiest of ground, my love. I shall stand my ground!

Refuse to save your good leather shoes for another day, my love. Undo the awful knot of this precious silk tie and burn it with the dry leaves of autumn. Don't come to my door smelling of cologne and holding twelve red, dead roses in your hands. Don't come to me with the apology of an open wallet! Don't love me like that, my love. Come naked. Come as I know you, my love. Come as I know you!

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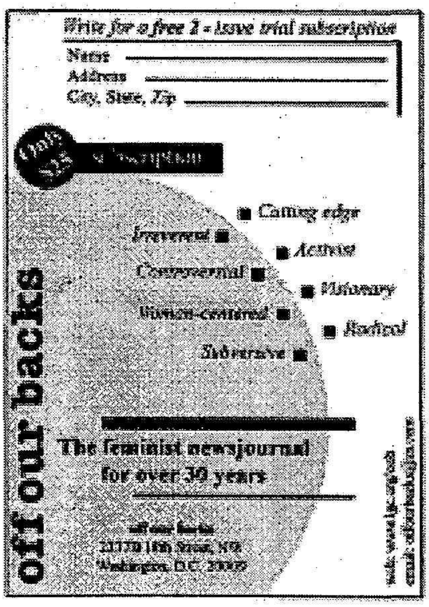

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Valued Volunteers

North Bi Northwest is proud to reintroduce our Valued Volunteers column. This quarter's volunteer profile is on Lisa Lovejoy. Thanks for brining your positive energy to SBWN, Lisa!

How long have you been involved with SBWN?

I'm not sure. Let me check my calendar…Ok. I think since January of this year.

How did you find out about SBWN?

I walk by the LGBT center often and it's an inviting place. One day I decided to walk in on a day off from work. I checked out the library and saw a flyer for SBWN meeting. I found out that they were having a flirting workshop and I was there.

What job do you volunteer for at SBWN?

I am the announcement gal. I send out announcements to folks who request weekly updates about events going on for SBWN and other organizations of interest. I am also a facilitator.

Have you done other volunteer positions for SBWN?

No, but I probably will…

Have you done volunteer positions with other groups?

Yes, I was part of a group of mothers that started a non-profit called Northwest Attachment Parenting.

Why do you volunteer? With SBWN? With any other group?

Being involved in my community, wherever it may be, helps me feel connected. A part of something important. I really like meeting others. However, I have found that it is a unique challenge to meet other bi sexual women. I really wanted to be in a community where women like me are more easily met. I wanted more dialogue about this "sexual orientation" we call "bisexuality".

What are your interests? Hobbies?

I do a lot of stuff. I really enjoy printmaking, writing, knitting, and any other wacky thing that comes to mind. I have always been an avid reader, something that hopefully keeps my mind active and present in this world.

How old are you?

Thirty-seven and still ticking.

What is your real-world job or profession? How do you make a living?

I am a Project Assistant at the Veterans Affairs Health Administration. Specifically, I work in Research and Development. A lot of grant collation, project management, blah, blah, blah. But I like it. It's really busy and every day is different.

Do you have a family you want to tell us about? Husband, wife, partner, children, mother, father, siblings, cat, dog?

I have two beautiful girls, Zola and Delilah who are nine and six, respectively. I have a fabulous male partner who keeps me on an even keel, helping make my life joyful and interesting. We are interested in a possible third partner, casual or otherwise. We'll see where that takes us…

Lisa Lovejoy.

Where did you grow up?

Seattle- Central area

How long have you lived in the Seattle area?

Forever.

Do you identify as bisexual? When did you know?

I think as far back as 1st grade, I had a crush on my teacher because she had those sexy tight, robin's egg blue polyester pants that accentuated her derrière. I didn't know then, but the duality of it was beginning to make itself known. I had close girlfriends that I somehow managed to take showers with, and boyfriends platonic and otherwise. I felt twinges of attraction for both sexes and didn't understand it for a long time. It took me along time to really identify, in that real sense of taking in a belief system, a set of cultural mores and adding them to my

world view. I had to stumble a bit. I had to get married and break up, be broken up and really sad for a while.
I had to understand how my body works. That all takes time. I'm still stumbling, but hopefully I come by it honestly, and with some humor.

Is there anything else you would like the readership to know about you?

Recently, I emailed Annie Sprinkle who will be at the Queering Femininity conference. I told her that I would be participating at a discussion panel and she EMAILED ME BACK. WOW. I felt like I had been touched by a rock star. I'm such a teenager sometimes.

Annie Sprinkle is my hero.

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* * *

Rally for Equal Rights and Gay Marriage: A Story of Political Activism

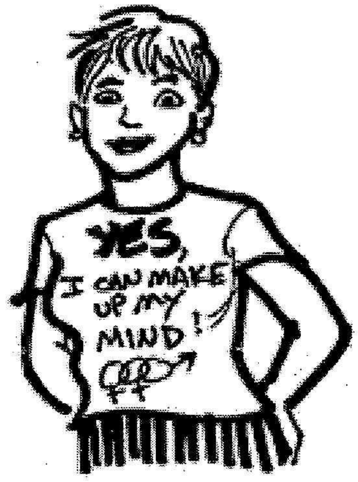
By Lori Jackson

On Valentine's Day, I, along with seven hundred people according to the Tacoma News Tribune, went to Olympia, Washington to stand up for equal rights and to show our support for gay marriage, if that becomes possible after a Supreme Court case on March 8. This was a rally that had many spiritual leaders of many kinds, sponsored by a coalition of religious leaders that want to show that not all people that believe in a higher power also believe in discrimination against LGBT people. Some religions like the MCC church and the Unitarians perform gay commitment ceremonies until they can perform gay marriages. The groups that gathered at the Capital on Monday are trying to show legislators and LGBT people that not all spiritual people are homophobic like Jerry Falwell. President Bush has been strongly supported by the religious, conservative right wing that supports the Federal Marriage Protection Amendment and there are forces like that in Washington also which protested in the House against the Civil Rights bill. The good news is that there are religious leaders like the leader of First Baptist Church of Seattle, who spoke eloquently on Monday. One of the organizers of the rally, Cantor David Serkin-Poole, a gay man, said to our group before the rally, "Justice doesn't just happen, we have to make it happen". The committed people who came to this rally were trying to show society and the legislators that we believe that our Creator loves LGBT people also and wants all people to be treated with Justice and Compassion by state laws.

Overcoming non-usual election season apathy, five people came on a bus that was chartered by the South Sound Center in Tacoma. The man who chartered the bus, John a leader in the Tacoma AIDS community, had originally heard from over forty people who had been interested in coming to the rally in Olympia, but only myself and four other people came. Ironically, only John really had a compelling need for gay rights and gay marriage since he has been in a committed relationship with a partner for over forty-six years. One man on our bus was a retired minister, who dressed up in religious garb for the rally. One lady, Mary, has a lesbian sister who would need protection that the equal rights legislation would ensure her if it passes. The other young lady was an open-minded student who just moved to Tacoma from Portland. I had heard about this charter bus from someone at my MCC church but ironically there was no one else from our church on the bus. I did meet someone at the pre-rally gathering from my church but he had driven up there alone.

Washington, hopefully, will pass an equal rights bill after many years of trying to get similar bills passed.* There are four gay male legislators in our state including Ed Murray from Seattle, who introduced House Bill 1515, the Anderson-Murray equal rights bill. Many sources, including the Tacoma News Tribune expect the bill to actually pass this year. Many people expect Governor Christine Gregoire to sign the bill into law. Hopefully, even if the gubernatorial election gets thrown out, the lasting impact of her time in office will be the equal rights bill passing. The gay legislators spoke to our group before the rally and during the rally; especially Ed Murray, who was a very passionate speaker. One of the state legislators who spoke is a Unitarian minister, who although heterosexual, passionately believes in equal rights for LGBT people.
I think that some people who complain about the government and George Bush winning the presidency have become apathetic about changing things for the better like fighting for equal rights for LGBT people. This is a very important issue to me because it affects a lot of people. People could be fired for their orientation and denied the same rights that people in heterosexual relationships have.

There are ordinances in some places like King and Pierce Counties that ensure equal rights in employment, housing and other rights. The problem is that these rights are not statewide and House Bill 1515 would make equal rights protections statewide. Also people have gotten married in other states like Massachusetts, and in Canada and would like their marriages to be considered legal in this state. Some couples have challenged marriage laws in this state and have won some decisions in lower courts and a case is being brought to the State Supreme Court on March 8. One of the plaintiffs in one of the cases is Cantor David Serkin-Poole, who has been with his partner for over twenty years and there are many other people like him that the laws should be changed to help.
There are many reasons for me caring about these issues and coming to this rally. I am trying to become more politically active so that I can inspire my children to care about issues that are important to them personally and to our country, because I act on my beliefs in God and Justice. I have always tried to vote in every election since I was eighteen and to be informed about the issues and candidates. In college, I worked to get people registered to vote and helped write letters to senators about budget cuts in our state of Ohio. I also read the Advocate regularly, which deals with issues that are important to LGBT people, like equal rights for all people and gay marriage. I also am involved in my MCC church as much as I can. I believe that God loves all people, no matter what their orientation and that it is up to our Creator to judge us, not other people. I believe that no matter what someone's religion, or if they have a lack of organized spirituality; they should have the same rights as anyone else. I am married to a man, but I am bisexual and if I had come out earlier or if my husband died, I could be primarily partnered with a woman and would be concerned with my rights as her partner.


YES,
I CAN MAKE UP MY MIND!

In conclusion, victories will happen in our fight for civil rights and justice if we all start standing up for justice and overcome apathy. Are people apathetic about civil rights and gay marriage because heterosexuals take certain rights for granted? People who are queer can lose their jobs at the will of their employer in some places, just for being queer. People who are in heterosexual marriages have a lot of federal and states

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**Editor's note: The equal rights legislation in Washington State was defeated by one vote.*

rights that are taken for granted, rights that gay people can't have in most states currently. Laws affecting inheritance, child custody and insurance are only some of the issues associated with gays wanting to have marriage rights. I believe that each person, no matter what their orientation is, should stand up for issues that are important to themselves and to the betterment of society. I am going to try to get more involved with the local gay community and with issues that concern equal rights for all people. I feel sad that so many people were so angry that George Bush won the election and than they soon stopped caring about fighting for equal rights and improving society. Too many people don't assert their beliefs because they think that one person can't make a difference in fighting against 'the system' or the religious right. We need to start a grass roots effort to fight for civil rights for LGBT people and gay marriage to counteract the bigotry of the religious right. I, and other people like me, want to make a difference in this country and in this state so that everyone, no matter what their orientation and whom they choose to love has the same equal rights to make a living and have a happy life. Everyone should do their part to make this society better but in this country people have a right to be apathetic and not fight for their own rights or those of others. Hopefully my experiences will affect others to want to change society and I will continue to try to be the best person that I can be and be involved in the fight for civil rights for LGBT people.

My Activism part three

By Cyprienne

During the mid 80's I *attended* my first Take Back The Night march. We started out in Brookline, Massachusetts at 9:00 PM and walked to a site in Boston for a rally with speakers and musical performances. It was invigorating, exciting, liberating to occupy the streets after dark. We felt powerful and defiant. Some years later I went to a similar event in Worcester. It was much smaller and we were limited to walking on the sidewalks instead of taking over the streets.

Some of my craftswomen friends, women I met through my participation in the Women's Craft Market and whom were a bit more politically savvy than myself, asked me if I was attending the Gay pride march. I was unaware that such an event existed in Boston or anywhere. I found out that the Women's Center would be having a group marching under their banner and went and joined up with their contingent. It was another enlightening and powerful experience. I started marching in the Boston Pride March every year after that. Sometimes other craftswomen friends and I would rent a table space and set up our crafts at the rally site. It took many years for me to march in Boston under a bisexual banner.

Over the years I have been a marcher or onlooker at Pride marches in Boston, Massachusetts, Worcester, Massachusetts, Hartford, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Portland, Maine, San Francisco, California, San Jose, California, Seattle, Washington and London, England.

Sometime in the 80's I discovered women's music festivals. One of the women in my bi CR group told me about a festival she had just attended in Connecticut. It was called the New England Women's Music Retreat. I decided to try selling my wares at the next NEWMR and got myself a booth space. I took along the products of two other craftswomen I knew to share my space. I joined a group called the Craftwomen's Mutual Aid Society that was formed by craftswomen and artists who sold on the women's music festival circuit. We discussed selling conditions at the various festivals and worked together to try and improve conditions for all members. We shared accounts of the different festivals, gave tips for pricing, marketing, discussed selling etiquette. After one particularly chaotic NEWMR where many of the craftswomen had damaged booths and products due to a major late night rainstorm, I ended up writing a letter supporting a fellow artist in her damage complaint to the organizers. I sent a copy of the letter to Sojourner and it was published. There was also a letter of reply from the organizers explaining their position. I set up a booth at nearly every NEWMR for ten years as well at having a booth at the Michigan Women's Music Festival for two years. I had a table selling my products at an early East Coast Bi conference in Connecticut. At the end of that conference people were talking about creating a regional or even a nationwide bisexual organization.

In the late 70's I started getting my gynecological health care taken care of at a self-help women's clinic run by women and not affiliated with a hospital. Each woman participated in her own exams also getting educated in the process. Women learned how to take blood pressure readings, do pregnancy tests, examine their own vaginas and cervixes, and could be trained to draw blood. I had two unplanned pregnancies during that time and performed the tests under the guidance of women at the clinic. I was able to get two legal, inexpensive and relatively pain-free abortions through this clinic.

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Scarves – Shawls – Vests – Ponchos – Blankets
By Cyprienne

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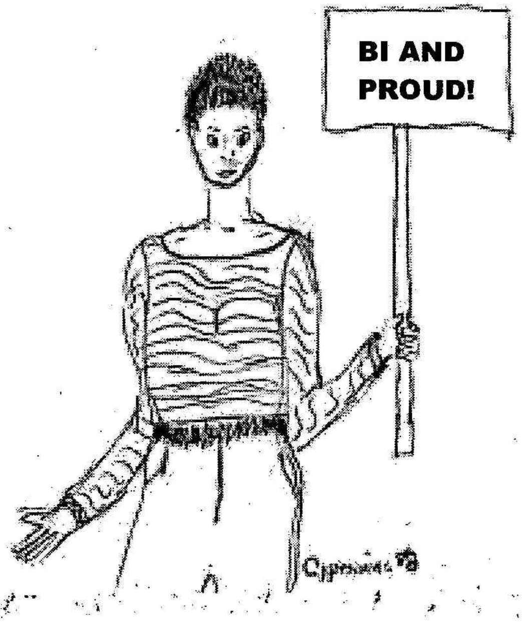
The first time I saw a copy of ***Our Bodies, Ourselves*** it was an incredible eye-opener. An early copy was loaned to me by a friend and I read it quickly, greedily soaking up the information about women's bodies, emotions, feelings, experiences with doctors, common symptoms of conditions and illness that affect women. I was delighted when the Boston Women's Health Book Collective announced that a big publishing company was going to come out with an edition that would be available in bookstores. Some years later I heard that the Collective was revising the content for a new bigger expanded version. I called and asked about their plans for expanding the information on bisexuality. I was told that I could contribute directly by attending a small focus group discussion at their office. I went and spent several hours talking with other bisexual women and one straight woman about our lives as bisexuals. When the new book came out there was better information about bisexuality. At least one of the quotes sounded like something I might have said. My name also appeared in the extensive list of contributors printed in the book.

In 1993 there was a very large march on Washington where they finally included Bisexual in the title along with Gay, Lesbian and Transgender. I drove down to Washington, D. C. from Westborough, Massachusetts with my friend Cathy. We stayed with a friend of a friend of mine whom I had not met before. She hosted us in her apartment although she wasn't attending the march. Cathy and I spent three days roaming the Capital. Nearly everywhere we went we saw large numbers of LGBT people. Often outnumbering the 'straight' people in some locations like the Air and Space Museum and the National Arboretum. On the day of the march we went to the Mall and visited the Viet Nam Memorial and the Aids Quilt and then hung out watching the crowds and the entertainment. I joined the large Bisexual contingent after they had started to march. It was thrilling to be out and proud and openly bisexual marching past the White House.

In 1994 I moved to the Bay Area. My family rented a home in Lafayette, California. I started attending two different bisexual women's groups, one that met in Berkeley at the public library and one that met in Walnut Creek. After a short while I started to help with the running of the Berkeley group.

I moved to San Jose in 1995 and started attending a mixed-gender bi support group held at the Billy De Frank Center. After a few months I talked with the facilitators about becoming one of them. I mentioned that my skills were a little rusty and they signed me up for a one-day facilitator training course held at the center. I started facilitating the group once a month. I also joined a newly forming group called the South Bay Bisexual Organizers and Activists. We held monthly brunches, regular social activities, shared information about and with other bi groups, discussed political action and produced a newsletter. We also organized a one day Bi Con held at the Billy De Frank center. I participated in the center's annual holiday craft fair. When signing up for the fair I encountered bisexual ignorance on the part of one of the fair organizers and brought this up to the activist group. We tried to raise the issue of understanding and tolerating bisexuals at the center. We decided to march as a group under a bisexual banner at the San Jose Pride Parade in 1996. I sewed a large 3 x 6 foot cloth banner for us to carry and made overlapping triangle bisexual patches for our marchers. We took the banner with us to the San Francisco Pride march that year and appeared on local television along with the rest of the huge bisexual marching contingent.


BI AND PROUD!

In the fall of 1996 my family moved to Redmond, Washington. In October of that year I went to my first Seattle Bisexual Women's Network meeting. My first meeting was a business meeting so there was very little discussion of anything else. I returned in February and volunteered to be the Gay Community Social Services representative for SBWN. In March I asked about the newsletter, North-Bi-Northwest and found out that it was temporarily out of production due to volunteer burnout. I became the editor and person in charge of newsletter production. The next year I became a facilitator for the group. I participated in Pride, marching and selling my crafts along with the SBWN products in our booth. Over the years I have also helped organize our pride participation several times. I was a primary organizer for our Twentieth

Anniversary party fund raiser. I joined the SBWN Advisory Group. I instigated a once a month SBWN Women's Polyamory discussion group and facilitated it for two and a half years. I have let go of many of my volunteer duties for SBWN although I still write for and edit the newsletter and attend many meetings.

I wrote my first letter to a congressperson when I lived in Massachusetts, to Senator Kennedy. Then I took a long break but have started writing letters and sending email since I moved to Washington. In 2003 I went to a local 'coffee' meeting put on by Representative Jay Inslee. I came prepared with a list of possible questions to ask. The room was too small for the number of people who showed up. I had to stand against the back wall with a row of others since the chairs were all taken. I never asked any of my questions because other people asked everything I had written down. Afterward I went over to one of the state representatives that was in attendance, Laura Ruderman, and talked to her about the state of healthcare for low-income people in the state of Washington.

My first trip to a large Bisexual conference was to the Fifth International Conference on Bisexuality in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1998. My older son was still living in Medford at the time so I was able to stay at his apartment while attending the conference. My son was working with a woman who was putting on a social event at the conference. I brought along some SBWN material and handed it out to people at the conference. I left a pile of newsletters out on a table and they all were taken. I attended many different workshops including one on older bi's and one for bi's doing periodical writing. At this con I found out that there was a smaller one happening in Vancouver, B. C. later in the year. I also had a discussion with Fritz Klein about planning a bi con in the Seattle area.

I attended three bi cons in Vancouver, B. C. One was the First North American Conference in 2001. SBWN had a table there staffed by several women from Seattle. A whole group of us had come up together and we met up with several other women who had been part of SBWN. I saw many people that I had met at other bi cons and was asked by Loraine Hutchins to participate in an older women's panel on health. Four of us talked about our lives as women and our various health issues. We then had questions and discussion from the audience

Cyprienne (far left) and fellow presenters of the workshop on older women's health at the North American Conference on Bisexuality, Vancouver, BC.

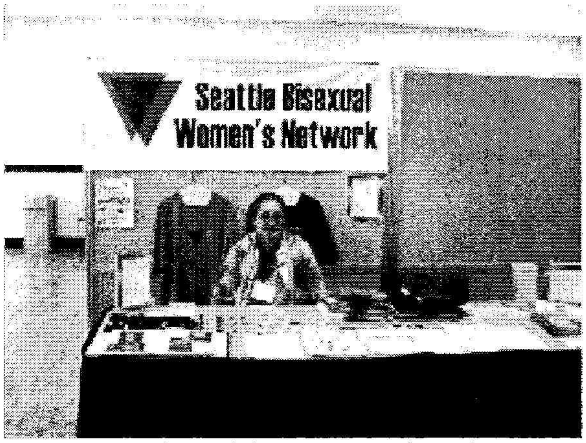
Back when Clinton was president and embroiled in the Monica Lewinski affair, an on-line group started of people who wanted the congress to 'censor and move on'. After the issues with President Clinton were resolved the group continued as a political force known as MoveOn.org. I have continued to be a member receiving email updates and calls to action weekly and sometimes daily.

In early 2004 I found out that we would not be having the usual primary election in the state of Washington since our primary structure had been ruled illegal. I was forced to attend the Democratic caucus in order to have any say in nominating the Democratic candidate for president. For the first time in many years (not since I lived and voted in Massachusetts) I declared myself a Democrat and joined the party. The caucus was very well attended although my particular precinct only had about ten attendees. It was my first time for this experience so I was quiet and mostly just observed the proceedings. I did end up being elected as an Alternate delegate to the District Caucus from my precinct in King County. I was not called and so did not attend the next round of caucuses. I do receive weekly email updates from the Democratic party and web based petitions to sign on a regular basis.

In mid 2004 I attended a speaking engagement by Robyn Ochs at the University of Washington on the topic of bisexuality. A group of SBWN women all met up to hear Robyn speak. I did an impromptu interview with Robyn before the talk began and wrote it up for North-Bi-Northwest.

Robin Ochs at the UW.

In August of 2004 I attended the Eighth International Conference on Bisexuality held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I wrote an article for North-Bi-Northwest about my experiences attending the various presentations and social activities. I took SBWN merchandise and information and womaned a table, advertising and raising funds for SBWN. I gave out many brochures, free copies of the newsletter and talked to many people about the organization. I got to sit in on a brainstorming session with Robyn Ochs about the title of her new book concerning bisexuality.



Cyprienne at the Eighth International Conference on Bisexuality.

When I sat down to write about my personal involvement with activism, I had no idea how many different incidents in my life could be considered activism. As I started to sift through the years I kept remembering more things that I did that involved bucking the establishment or standing up for civil rights. I did not consider my actions those of an 'activist' until I joined a group in San Jose in 1995 with the word 'activist' in the title. I said "activist? I'm no activist" and others in the group pointed out that my actions in attending the meeting and in facilitating a bisexual support group were forms of activism. Many of the activities I have participated in over the years were done for the social aspect more than the activist aspect, especially in my early years. Now I claim the activist label as well as the bisexual label, the polyamorous label and the feminist label. I wear them all proudly.

Bisexuality in the Media—articles, stories, news and books with bisexual themes.

News

Choosing the road less traveled: Don't ostracize lesbians who turn to men. Most people are bisexual and choose to be gay or straight.
http://www.southernvoice.com/2005/2-11/view/columns/choosing.cfm

Bisexuality and the Elm City: On Valentine's Day two years ago, Anna, a junior who asked to be identified by a pseudonym, traveled to New York City to spend the evening with her girlfriend. One year ago, she enjoyed a homemade, candlelit dinner with her new significant other, a boyfriend.
http://www.yaledailynews.com/article.asp?AID=28333

Bisexual cop wins discrimination case: For the second time in eight months, a federal jury has ruled in favor of a Suffolk police officer who claimed that colleagues and supervisors discriminated against him and created a hostile work environment.
http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-liweek0129.0.2435360.story?coll=ny-topstories-headlines

Television

Archives at "After Ellen."
http://www.afterellen.com/archives-bisexualwomen.html

Books

Fiction

Aquamarine by Carol Anshaw

Another Country, *Giovanni's Room*, and *Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone* by James Baldwin

Anvil of Stars by Greg Bear

Southern Discomfort, *Six of One*, and *Venus Envy* by Rita Mae Brown

Best Bisexual Women's Erotica by Carla Bruce (Ed.)

Savage Nights by Cyril Collard

The Passion of Alice by Stephanie

Non-Fiction

Swinging on the Garden Gate by Elizabeth J Andrew.

Swinging on the Garden Gate

A woman's coming of-age journey through the rugged landscape of Wales to the reflective quiet of a retreat center. Along the way she questions and explores the depth of her Methodist faith as she comes to terms with her bisexual identity. (Skinner House) 2000.224 pp. ISBN 1-55896-409-6.

Plural Desires: Writing Bisexual Women's Realities by the Bisexual Anthology Collective: Nancy Chater, Dionne Falconer, and Sharon Lewis (editors)

Bi America: Myths, Truths, And Struggles Of An Invisible Community by Bill Burleson.

BI AMERICA
WILLIAM E. BURLESON

There are at least five million bisexual people in America, generally invisible to straight society, the gay community, and even to each other. While the vast majority of these five million live within the straight or gay world, there are a few who have formed a community of their own. Bi America: Myths, Truths, and Struggles of an Invisible Community offers an inside look at the American bisexual community and gives an understanding of the special circumstances unique to being bisexual. The book takes the reader to bi community events from picnics, to conferences, to support groups, to performances in order to expose the everyday trials of the bisexual community.

Bisexuality and the Challenge to Lesbian Politics: Sex, Loyalty, and Revolution by Paula C. Rust

Closer to Home: Bisexuality & Feminism
by Elizabeth Reba Weise

Married Women Who Love Women
by Carren Strock

Secret Sisters: Stories of Being Lesbian and Bisexual in a College Sorority edited by Shane L. Windmeyer and Pamela W. Freeman

A Woman Like That: Lesbian and Bisexual Writers Tell Their Coming Out Stories by Joan Larkin

Women and Bisexuality by Sue George

Bi Lives: Bisexual Women Tell Their Stories
by Kata Orndorff

Editorial Reviews
From Booklist

Eighteen interviews with bisexual women reveal a vast range of backgrounds and adult experiences, from childhoods in urban settings to youth spent on a southern Virginia farm, from a woman currently married and monogamous as well as not very sexual to one who is now non-monogamous with both a woman and a man.

"Susan," age 43 and an incest survivor, regards her bisexual activities as reflecting her need to please and be praised for being "hot." Radical feminist political organizer "Lani" ponders the philosophy of lesbian separatism and the hurt she endured because of it. HIV-positive "Mary" had been in an open relationship with a man, and both enjoyed going to parties and "playing" before learning of his HIV status (when interviewed, her health was failing, but an epilogue reveals that later her viral load diminished).

Along with the interviews come safer-sex guidelines and a bisexual resource list, which round the book out as a valuable resource for collections strong in sexuality issues and women's studies. Whitney Scott

Evolution: Monogamy to Open marriage to Polyamory
By Cyprienne

When I grew up, in the 1950's and 1960's, monogamy was the only acceptable way to run a relationship. If you were female, you found a male partner, someone you loved and wanted to share your life with. After a non-sexual getting to know you period, you got married, had sex, two point five children, bought a house and lived happily ever after. That was what I was taught even if it didn't really reflect the reality of life. And you never had sex with anyone else. You never had another partner unless yours died. You devoted yourself to supporting your spouse. And this was normal and natural and accepted by all right thinking Americans. You were supposed to have your first sexual experience on your wedding night. Women were not supposed to enjoy sexual intercourse. It was something you did for and with your husband only. People who had sex without marriage, outside of their marriage, or with more than one partner, were sluts, whores, adulterers, loose women, promiscuous, immoral. I believed this stuff.

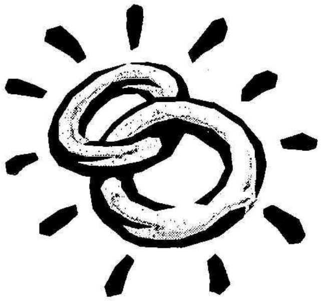
I started having sex with boys at age fourteen. Boys wanted me to go all-the-way even earlier than that but I resisted. And I felt that I was doing something wrong and was immoral and a slut.

As a teenager I had a series of male partners and sometimes had more than one partner at a time. I always had a boyfriend or two from age twelve on and intense close friendships with girls from age seven.

I learned that by having sex with young men they would take me out to dinner and a movie, give me attention and sometimes presents, so I became 'easy'. I had one older boyfriend who arranged for me to have sex with a mutual friend, a virgin. On the way to the rendezvous, I made out with the boyfriend on a bus and in a subway car. At this time I didn't really enjoy the intercourse, only the foreplay. I didn't have orgasms from intercourse, only from masturbation which I started at age four. I didn't know that I was masturbating. It was just something I did. I learned to put a name to it when I was fifteen or sixteen and I thought all females did it. I finally had orgasms with intercourse when I was seventeen.

When I was eighteen I had my first sexual encounter with a woman, a close friend, when one night I shared her boyfriend with her.

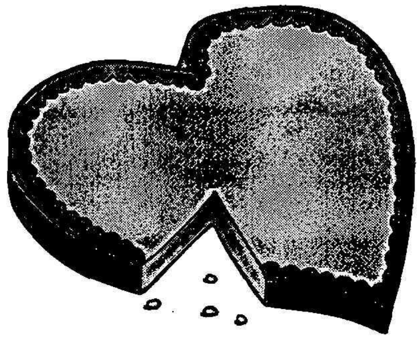
I got married for the first time when I was nineteen, became a hippie and discovered drugs. I also discovered the practice of bisexuality when my husband introduced me to a friend of his who slept with both men and women. It was called being AC/DC. My husband also introduced me to the idea of loving two people at the same time. I though it was not possible and downright wrong since I had been taught that monogamy was the only way. We were supposed to be monogamous, my husband demanded it of me. I did have attractions to other men but wouldn't go beyond heavy petting because I felt I had to adhere to that monogamy pledge. Late in the marriage I discovered that he wasn't holding to that agreement and had been 'unfaithful' several times.



When I was twenty-two, I left my husband and got divorced the next year. I moved back to the East Coast and in with my older brother. I was invited to move in with a couple who wanted to form a triad but I was scared of the idea and moved in with a boyfriend instead. We were supposed to be monogamous but he never stopped pursuing other female partners and lied to me about it because he wanted to keep the peace and continue to live with me. After two years I moved out. I had come home early one day from work and accidentally caught him in the act. I also found out that he was starting to get involved with a married woman whom I had introduced him to and whom I thought was a close friend of mine.

Then I started to try and seduce all my straight women friends. I discovered feminism and swore off marriage. I started to hear about communes where people shared sexual partners. I had one month where I dated and had sex with four different male partners. I still believed that a committed relationship meant monogamy.

At twenty-five, I got pregnant and moved in with the father. We started a monogamous relationship although after the baby was born, I got involved with a female friend. The relationship became sexual and eventually I split up with the baby's father and became a part-time single mother. I found the Cambridge Women's Center and started frequenting the women's feminist discussion group held there. I was hoping to find female partners. I spent several years having a series of short-term relationships and one-night stands with both women and men. Throughout my twenties I also remained sexual with my son's father and with the man I lived with after my marriage broke up.



Then I met a man, ten years younger than myself and got pregnant. I moved in with him and after several months we got married. This time with an agreement to have an open relationship with certain restrictions. We would have other partners but only together, no outside relationships without each other and no falling in love with others. Over time, we started to expand the relationship and outside encounters were permitted though I remained without any and was extremely jealous of my husband's other partners. My husband found a triad from out of state via the internet and began a long-term relationship with them. Initially I was included but after a few times together I was rejected and my husband wanted to continue to be involved with them. He introduced me to the idea of polyamory with primary and secondary partners. We moved to California. He had other partners, I did not and was still jealous and felt left out.

Three years later we moved to Washington State and he continued to be involved with the triad. We were now living in the same town as they were. I began to attend poly events, specifically the poly-fidelity potluck and I started to read books and articles on polyamory and talked to many people about the subject. I tried to make my relationship with my husband conform to the models of polyamory that I read about.

I got involved with SBWN and found myself a male fuck-buddy. I realized that my marriage was not conforming to any of the poly models I had read or heard about and that I was not being treated as the primary partner that I was nominally supposed to be. My marriage broke up. I moved into my own place and became a part-time single mother again. A year or so later I started facilitating a women's polyamory discussion group as part of SBWN.

I have come to realize that I was actually polyamorous in actions from my teenage years though not in what I believed or professed. I had multiple relationships and partners while claiming monogamy as my way of life.

Comments After Meetings

7 November 2004: Gender

"I liked the large crowd, lots of different opinions. Gender seems a pretty fuzzy issue, lots of meanings and evocating much passion."
"Great to see so many people with really thought provoking comments and questions. Thanks for jumping in and taking this on. I learn something new every time we talk about this and related topics."
"Thank you for all the great questions and input! Excellent meeting!"
"Great meeting! I 'm glad I came."
"Not enough time; this discussion could have been twice as long."
"Very good discussion. I really think that this is an important subject."
"Great discussion. It makes me want to get more information and keep learning/talking about this subject(s)."
"After tonight, I'm hopeful that one day there will be Purple States."
"Fantastic discussion. There were so many great topic ideas that we should have material for more discussion on gender for several more meetings."

6 February 2005: Polyamory

"This shy new girl is grateful to know there are such badass chicas in this city, maybe an entire network to tap into. Take care and keep it coming!"
"Thanks for being here and giving me a place to be myself."
"Great meeting, much better size group for more discussion. Thanks for the poly topic and for adding the 101 and safe sex topics this spring."
"This was a great informative meeting and I'm really glad that I came."
"I am really pleased we had this discussion. No matter how long I 'do poly' I learn something new every time."

6 March 2005: Body Image

"Great discussion. It is really helpful to be able to discuss this topic freely in a supportive environment."
"All over with this topic--race, other people's body image, erotic preferences, compliments, and more..."
"This was a great discussion, body image in women is such an important topic to talk about and get on the table."
"It is awesome to be able to get such an array of life perspectives within one group."
"The opportunity to share body images was refreshing!"
"We could do this topic again and again."

19 March 2005: The Politics of Hair

"Wow what a strange setting we were in to talk about hair! Great to see everyone, older members as well as the newer ones. Would like to talk more about hair other than head hair."
"Great discussion about an interesting topic."
"Awesome discussion – everyone had great things to share and I loved the photos."
"Very fun. The discussion was interesting, hilarious and informative."
"Enjoyed the friendly people and the knowledge gained about hair."
"What a fun, enlightening discussion!"
"Very important topic for queer women! Thanks for this discussion."
"Great to have so many people here! (Over a dozen.) And it is really fun to hear so many different opinions. And finally to have an open discussion about nipple hair. First time for a lot of us!"

3 April 2005: Safer Sex

"I love Sheri's saran wrap rap!"
"Great info. Thanks for the demo of putting a condom on with your mouth. I'd have liked more time for discussion."
"Great topic and I have seen this discussion before but this subject makes me horny."
"This was a great discussion. This was the first time the safer sex discussion has been fun...awesome!"

Celebrating Pride—an SBWN tradition!

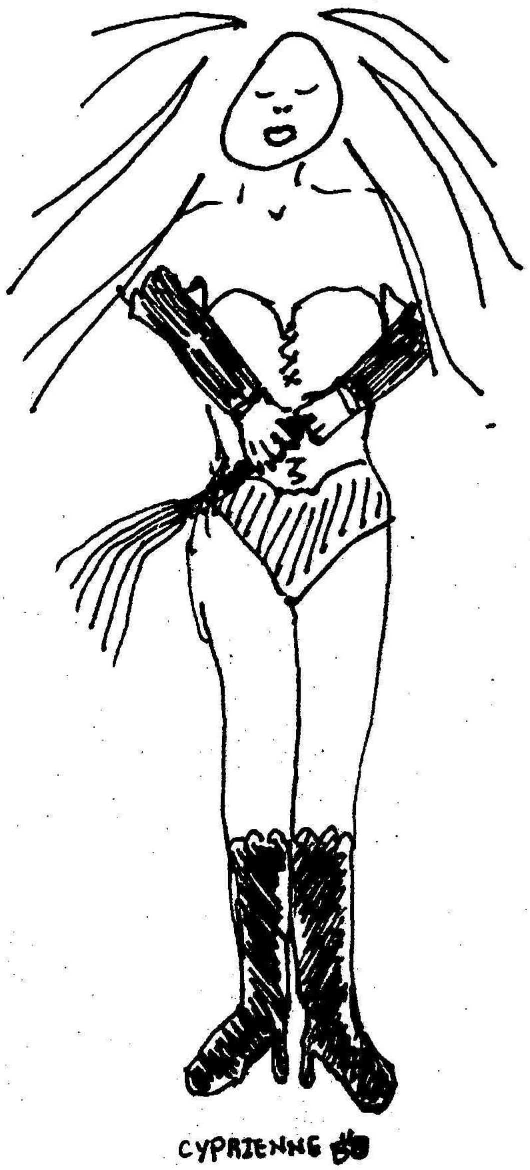
Seattle Bisexual
Women's Network

Saucy Dish!
All things sensual and sexy!

Saucy Dish is on temporary hiatus! Saucy is very busy right now with her many activities in the sex-positive community. Thanks for all that you give to the community, Saucy! We eagerly anticipate more of your excellent advice.

This column offers sexuality education and insight into sex positive culture. Information contained within will be bold, opinioned and based on experience and research. Please ask questions about safer sex, our bodies, pleasure, relationships, sexual exploration, sex toys, sexy wear, flirting and more…

Send letters to SBWN Attn: Saucy Dish POB 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle, WA 98113-0645 or email your questions to: saucydish@hotmail.com



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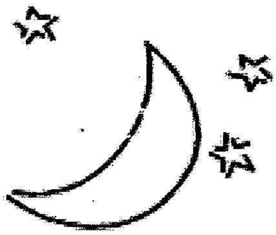
The "WuWu" Page



...for entertainment only...

Horoscopes

Taurus Apr 20 to May 21

Key word: Strength –Your strength is your signature quality. It is a quality, which is both admired and disliked (depending upon the circumstance). Soon your strength (and your reputation for being strong) will become a great asset in the workplace. The trick is to balance that strength with patience. Carefully weigh each situation to determine if it is better to assert your strength or to ride on your reputation for being strong. Soft peddle when you can. It will leave you in a much more secure position by the end of the summer.

- You're not feeling very patient, and no doubt your insistence on finding answers has lead you to your present peace of mind. Please remember while dealing with your current situation, that if you block others from your true feelings as they have blocked you in the past; you will only perpetuate the problems that nag you. Show that you have the strength and ability to overcome fears about trust and follow through to resolution of the issues at hand. Letting go and trusting is the key to your total sense of well being.

Gemini May 21 to Jun 21

Key word: Harmony– Dear Gemini....! No one should have to tell you about harmony. Twins; working in tandem. In harmony....Get it?! Sometimes we don't see what is right in front of our eyes because it is simply too close. You know how to do this harmony thing. You just don't have a lot of experience seeing it in the world outside you, because you live it all the time. Start looking at the world as if it is a larger version of your internal dialog and you will understand how to communicate more harmoniously in relationships. Springtime is a time for making plans with others and setting those plans into motion. Harmonious communication will be the key to getting your blissful summer off on the right foot.

- You are feeling like you are not yourself. Some power has been removed from your grasp. Don't make a big deal of it and don't take it personally. The persons involved are not aware of the importance of your position. They will likely screw up, but you will not be blamed and a lesson will be learned. Your ability to hold your tongue while all this unfolds will weigh heavily in your favor in the end.

Cancer Jun 21 to Jul 22

Key word: Expectancy- Wow! You've been staying right on track and now you are about to reap the reward. Yes, the reward will come. It's so close you can almost taste it. This is called expectancy rather than anticipation, because what you have set into motion cannot be stopped. It will play out to the end. Stop worrying already.

- Apparently you have decided to toss all sense of judgment aside. After all, the next guy is clearly not bothering to use any. A close friendship (or perhaps soul entanglement) is hanging in the balance, and you are just plain tired of having to carry the entire friendship/relationship yourself. Go ahead, do what you will do. The truth is you are following your gut. It has nothing to do with a conventional sense of judgment. The other party will pull it together and you will arrive at a happier place.

Leo Jul 22 to Aug 23

Key word: Surrender – Ok, you've reached the top (of this summit). Take a break. Surrender to your achievement. Learn from the experience of getting there. Commit the process to memory so you don't have to climb this one again. But most of all surrender to the feeling of success. Let it flow through you and fill you with a sense of well being. Rather than looking back on this as a milestone you've passed; allow this feeling to become a part of you and take it with you on to the next achievement. This ability to surrender and feel successful will take you higher and higher with each new challenge.

-You have recently relaxed your boundaries to let in something new. It is not in your nature to make such a bold gesture where your feelings are involved and you have concerns that it is going unappreciated. The one thing you need to remember is that those on the receiving end are not used to seeing this side of you and will need time to accept that you are truly offering them your trust. You are not losing control over your own life, so don't fear being taken advantage of. You are merely changing your methods and taking a softer approach to your life. Not only will those around you see that soon enough; but you will also see and hear new things about them. This will seem rocky and unstable at first but when balance is found (soon) you will see that you have made the right decision to drop your guard.

Virgo Aug 23 to Sept 23

Key word: Delight – Give the little things in your life a few more moments to sink in. Take time to delight in simple and small activities. (Such as: watering plants, going to the mailbox on a sunny morning, the taste of your favorite food…) Finding delight in these small things will enrich your life, and as you share these delightful concepts, it will enrich the lives of the people you love.

-Sometimes, you need to allow for ego in order to find the means to nurture yourself. Once you have recovered from a recent event, leave the ego at the door. It will not serve you to be patting yourself on the back as the people who are important to you are walking out of your life due to your overpowering sense of "me, me, me, me, MEEEEEE!". Let it go. There are people who are looking to you for help right now. They admire your wisdom; they need your advice and attention. Don't disappoint them or yourself. Give them the sweet understanding person they love and appreciate.

Libra Sept 23 to Oct 23

Key word: Courage – Seems like you always have to have courage to endure so much of what life throws at you. Right now you have to tweak that up a bit. If it seems like more than you can handle, just remember that it's not. If that's not enough, then remember that there are always your guardian angels and loved ones nearby who are pushing for you. It's true you have to do the work yourself, but know that you have support.

-You show others as much compassion as you can given what you are dealing with at home, but your mind and heart are elsewhere. You would like to take a vacation and visit someone close to your soul but the finances seem to prohibit such a trip. Do not underestimate the ability of someone near you to understand your plight and help you achieve this goal. Trust that they are doing it out of their love for you and the goodness of their own heart. There is no hidden agenda.

Scorpio Oct 23 to Nov 22

Key word: Beauty- As you get older you are seeing beauty in most everything. Your past judgmental attitude is drifting farther still, into the past. You are happier for it. Don't worry that you are seeing too much beauty and not getting a clear picture at times. People will live up to your expectations if you see beauty in them; they will give that side of themselves to you.

-It's been hard but you have found balance (with the help of others who have walked the path before you) and you now realize that you are in the very place you need to be at this time. Oddly, you seem to be on a new adventure without even leaving your own backyard. A great spring and summer are in store for you.

Sagittarius Nov 22 to Dec 21

Key word: All that is – Your sense of God or a higher power is elusive. It is so because your views are somewhat unconventional when it comes to these things. It is hard to explain your perspective to others. Don't try. They will learn by following your example. You won't have to be alone in your understanding of the universe for very long. You have friends who catch on quickly.

- You have finally successfully passed through some karma. Congratulations!! This leaves you feeling a bit shaky and maybe unsure of your next step, but don't be afraid. Just take stock in your current position. Clean house. See what you need to keep and what should go, then get on with it. This is a perfect time for spring-cleaning.

Capricorn Dec 21-Jan 20

Key word: Joy – You are just as comfortable in the wintertime as in the spring or summer, but the joy you find in seeing the people around you light up when the weather gets warmer is phenomenal. Push them along. Bring them flowers, go for walks with them, show them the newest outdoor attraction... The way relationships grow during the spring months brings you the greatest joy. Who can possible blame you if you choose to increase your joy by encouraging happiness in your loved-ones?

-There is a higher power, which has not looked upon you favorably in recent months, and your situation has left you feeling weak. Soon things will shift a bit and you will have a decision to make. Only you can make this decision. Beware that reaching material gain in the short term may not serve you the best in the long run. Choose wisely. Weigh all the options. Go with your heart.

Aquarius Jan 20 to Feb 18

Key word: Inspiration – Yeah, the birthday month may have been a bit of a letdown, but that's because we really only begin to experience the world a few months after our life begins. There is so much to learn in the tiny space around us when we first arrive on the planet. Now is the time to feel the excitement of being alive! The change in seasons is a huge inspiration. It's true you probably expected the earth to move around your birthday, but just because you didn't expect it to take so long doesn't mean you should not take advantage of inspiration when it comes knocking at your door. Grab it and run with it. You will not be disappointed. In fact, you will soon see that timing is everything.

-So much of your recent work has been based in conceptualizing that you feel you have gotten nothing done lately. Not knowing what is going on at the front line can be very distressing for you but it won't last much longer. In the meantime, you have been getting a much needed rest. When you do get back out to circulate, you will find that you are filled with energy and have a fresh approach to the project at hand. Your new exuberance will be appreciated greatly by those who work with you.

Pisces Feb 18 to Mar 20

Key word: Purpose - It is so easy for you to loose your sense of focus and with it your sense of purpose. Keep things as simple as possible this season, so that your sense of purpose will shine through. Keep your goals in focus.

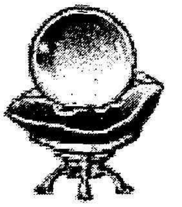
- It's the socializing that will get you where you need to be professionally. Networking has never been more important. It's a very straight forward group that you are about to gain access to. You know the right people to go to when you see them. Soon your plans will come into fruition. Financing for an important project comes after you have done most of the work on your own and from a previously untapped source. This source brings with it an awareness of an underground network that few have knowledge of.

Aries Mar 20 to April 20

Key word: Patience – Not to be confused with obstinacy or stubbornness, patience is the thing you need to help you see past minor difficulties and personality flaws into the future of plausible solutions. You are the problem solver here. The more patient you are with the people and factors involved, the more you will shine when the project is done.

-It would seem that your world has been turned upside-down. However, when you look more closely (or more carefully) at your situation you will see that things are just changing as they should. In-fact, you are beginning to see possibilities for yourself that you never expected and you will find that those who previously appeared to be the opposition are supporting your position. Be careful not to use up your resources too quickly. They will have to stretch at first to get you to the place you want to be. Work may become sparse and cause some heartache for a month or so, but shortly it will pick up and you will become very happy with your situation.

Neptune
Studios and Gallery
Visit the Gallery Site:
www.neptunestudio.com
We are currently seeking artists to show their work on our web-site
Professional FINE ART artists are welcome to submit their work for review.
For details contact Jan at cowbone@earthlink.net



Questions for the Psychic

Dear psychic,
I am trying to lighten my load in life, in particular the material things that I have been accumulating for the last thirty years. Is this a good time for me to do that? Any tips on severing the connection with things I am having trouble getting rid of? I am a Leo.

Lightning up

Dear Lightening Leo,

Good for you! You are doing something that most people need to do, yet few of us get around to it. Often material things carry with them emotional and energetic ties that we may be unaware of on a conscious level. It might be a good idea to meditate on those particular items that you can't seem to let go of. Maybe there is a reason. Perhaps, there is an exercise machine that you feel you should keep because you want to get into shape, but it's likely that if you are not using it already, the reason is it does not suit your lifestyle or your method of getting healthy and you will just feel guilty every time you see it. That will not make you healthy or get you into shape.

Looking into my cards, I see that there is a great deal of potential in the new approach you are taking to your life. Believe it or not, you will feel richer and more blessed once you have unloaded the things that are not serving you. Once you have gotten the bulk of these things out of your way, you will feel perhaps a bit depressed. Don't dwell on that feeling. It will pass quickly. True you might worry that you have ditched too much, but it really is a mental reaction to pure physical exhaustion.

This process of dumping the things you don't need will open space in your life for new things. A new romance, is a strong possibility. Don't be surprised if current loved ones squawk a little when they see a change in you. They fear the change because you have remained the same for so long, but it is good for to do this and you will find yourself considerably more motivated to begin new projects and new relationships, not to mention some new adventures you have not yet thought of.

You're off to a great start!

Blessings,
Sister Faith

Send your questions for our psychic to
cowbone@eathlink.com

Calendar

Seattle Bisexual Women's Network offers support and discussion groups at the Seattle LGBT Community Center. For schedule updates and other events, please call our phone line at (206)517-7767, or visit our website:

http://www.geocities.com/sbwn/.

SBWN group meetings are typically held on the first and third Sunday of each month. When attending support group meetings, please refrain from wearing perfumes or other scented products for the comfort of all.

Schedule of Meetings

Sunday, May 1: Bi 101. Examine some basic issues around being bi. This one never gets old!

Sunday, May 15: Creating Bi-Friendly Families. Discuss the challenges of creating families of all kinds who are bi-friendly.

Sunday, June 5: Business Meeting/Potluck. Help keep SBWN moving forward.

Sunday, June 19: Pride Prep Potluck. Time to get ready for Pride!

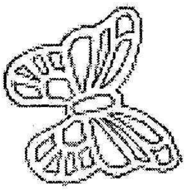
Sunday, July 3: Holiday weekend—no meeting.

Sunday, July 17: TBA.

Here are the dates for Pride:

June 25 Pride Festival: 11 AM - 6 PM Volunteer Park.

June 26 Pride March and Festival: 11 AM.



Local Groups

Seattle Bisexual Women's Network
PO Box 30645, Seattle, WA 98113-0645.
http://www.geocities.com/sbwn/
E-mail: sbwn@hotmail.com

Seattle LGBT Community Center
The Center's mission is to create a meeting place for the LGBT community to grow together, increase public understanding, and celebrate our diversity.
1115 East Pike Street
(206) 323-LGBT (5428)
http://www.seattlelgbt.org

Polyfidelity Discussion Group
Support group and community for people in or interested in multipartner relationships. Discussions and literature on responsible non-monogamy, intimate networks, alternative relationships and community. Bi-monthly potluck discussions are held at 5:30 pm at the SPCC (Sex Positive Community Center, aka "The Wet Spot"). 1630 15th Ave W., Seattle, WA. (206) 728-4533.
http://www.scn.org/~spg/index.html

BiNet Seattle
BiNet Seattle is a bisexual non-profit, mixed gender, social and support organization created to foster a visible community for bisexual, bi-curious people, and their partners in the Puget Sound area. http://www.binetseattle.org

Fridays 7:30-9pm: Discussion / Support group meetings for bisexual and bi-curious men and women, their partners and other bi-friendly folk at the Seattle LGBT Community Center.

Lesbian Resource Center
A community–based organization committed to advancing the status of lesbians by combating oppression and promoting empowerment, visibility, and social change. (206) 322-3953.
http://www.lrc.net